

GROUND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION!

importance of qualified personnel cannot be overemphasized. They do not understand the processes in industries that they are regulating and they follow specific guidelines to correct violations. A review of several cases shows that relatively few cases are settled in court and that these are time-consuming and costly. Staff members need to limit the number of cases going to court and correct violations through on-site visits and examination of data. Several of the programs examined by the committee have substantial staffs to carry out their program. For example, in 1984, Kansas spent \$1 million in support of ground water permitting and compliance staff support. California staff requirements included 650 positions to handle both surface and ground water quality (48 in the Central Valley region ground water alone). None of the programs examined, however, had adequate number of professionally trained staff to carry out the program requirements. State and federal funding for programs falls far short of program needs. Relatively low salaries and civil service requirements also result in high turnover among state and local agency personnel, which reduces long-term effectiveness of the programs.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Successful ground water protection programs require adequate legal authority and substantial funding for planning and design as well as implementation. Other factors affecting the successful implementation of ground water protection programs include the tractability of the problem, the size of the target group whose behavior is to be changed, the extent of behavior change required, the degree of integration within and among implementing institutions, the amount of media attention directed toward the problem, and the commitment and leadership skills of implementing officials. The committee would have liked to go into further detail concerning the difficulties that may be involved in the eventual implementation of policies designed to protect ground water, but owing to time limitations the committee could discuss only a limited number of these issues. Many of the more active programs examined, for example, California, Long Island, New York, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, have benefited from past federal support under Sections 106 and 208 of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- The committee recommends that the federal government provide financial support for development and implementation of state- or basin-level programs on the condition that within a specific time period the states are committed to developing self-supporting ground water management programs.